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Customer Number

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DEC 31 2003
TC 1700Patent
Case No.: 56336US002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: HOPCUS, ERNEST A.

Application No.: 10/036993

Group Art Unit: 1772

Filed: December 31, 2001

Examiner: Jane J. Rhee

Title: REMOVABLE CORE FOR PRE-STRETCHED TUBE

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.114Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Date

Signed by: Tom Sanders

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the outstanding final Office Action, mailed September 24, 2003, in the above-identified application.

Upon review of the file, it was noted that the initialed Form PTO-1449 filed with the Disclosure Statement dated June 17, 2003 has not been received. It is requested that the Examiner initial the Form PTO-1449, a copy of which is enclosed for the Examiner's convenience, and return it to the undersigned attorney.

This Amendment is believed to be timely submitted. It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.

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Customer Number
Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RCE/1700
Docket No.: 56336US002

Request for Continued Examination (RCE) Transmittal

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DEC 31 2003
TC 1700

First Named Inventor: Hopcus, Ernest A.
Application No.: 10/036993
Filed: December 31, 2001
Title: Removable Core for Pre-Stretched Tube

Group Art Unit: 1772
Examiner: Jane J. Rhee

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114 of the above-identified application.

1. Submission required under 37 CFR § 1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 CFR § 1.116 previously filed on
(Any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered)
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal Brief or Reply Brief previously filed on
- iii. ☐ Other
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/Supplemental IDS
- iv. ☒ Other Interview Summary

2. ☐ A Request for Extension of Time is being filed concurrently**3. Fees** (The RCE fee under 37 CFR § 1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR § 1.114 when the RCE is filed.)

- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees or credit any overpayments to:
Deposit Account No. 13-3723. **A duplicate copy of this letter for fees processing is enclosed.**
- i. ☒ RCE fee required under 37 CFR § 1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Other

Respectfully submitted,

December 18, 2003
Date

By: Melanie Gover
Melanie G. Gover, Reg. No.: 41,793
Telephone No.: (512) 984-4308

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
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Sent to Facsimile No.: <u>1218-03</u>	Signature: <u>Tom Sanders</u>
Date: <u>12/18/03</u>	Printed Name: <u>TOM SANDERS</u>

- ☒ Customer Number for
Correspondence Address:



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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE